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One Man Making a Difference

**Terry Murphy of Michigan's Children Receives National Service Award
for Work with At-risk Schoolchildren in Grand Rapids, Detroit**

LANSING -- Terry Murphy, the immediate past president of the public policy group, Michigan's Children, has been recognized with a national public service award from the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) for his work with at-risk kids in Grand Rapids and Detroit.

For his 30,000 hours of community service – and distribution of 60,000 books for elementary schoolchildren over the past 23 years – Murphy was lauded as a role model of exceptional influence by AICPA's Awards Committee Chairman Jim Curry. The AICPA's annual Public Service Award recognizes members who have made significant contributions to their communities. The ceremony took place in Washington, D.C. earlier this month.

"Since taking an early retirement from Arthur Anderson at age 50 and starting a second career in his life, he's helped at-risk youth in elementary schools in Grand Rapids and Detroit . . . influencing hundreds of children," Curry said. "You are a role model not only for all the children you have interacted with but for everyone in our profession."

Accepting the award, Murphy reflected on the elements of success, which seem to elude too many children in Michigan.

"I had a great career in public accounting. And I thought for long time, I'm smart and worked hard and that's why I have it. It took me a while to realize my success is due to fact I was surrounded by caring, loving individuals who wanted me to succeed. That was true in my professional life and when I was a child," he said.

"Every child deserves that same opportunity to be loved and to be given the chance to succeed."

Murphy remains committed to mentoring in Detroit Public Schools, and continues to seek donations of children's books from colleagues and friends. He lives in Ann Arbor with his wife, Leslie Murphy.

“I encourage each of you to think of one child or one place where you might be able to influence a child’s life,” said Murphy, naming schools, boys’ and girls’ clubs and mentoring organizations as volunteer opportunities.

Murphy has worked in Gompers Elementary and Campbell Elementary, both in Detroit, and the Henry School in Grand Rapids. His work with students includes reading, chaperoning, resolving conflicts, assisting teachers, tutoring, and most importantly, being there to encourage the kids. When the basketball program at Henry School needed a basketball coach, he stepped in to prevent the program from being eliminated.

In addition to his work in Detroit Schools, Murphy’s service with Michigan’s Children, the Lansing-based public policy advocacy group focused on children, youth and families, has been important in his life, he said. He currently serves as a member of Michigan’s Children Board of Directors, but he has served as board chair and treasurer.

“I’ve been very fortunate to be able to blend rewarding work in schools with service in an organization that works hard every day to help generations of children and families succeed,” he said.

To view a video from the award presentation, see <http://bcove.me/wpha80fu>

[Michigan’s Children](#) is the only statewide, multi-issue advocacy organization focused solely on public policy in the best interest of children from cradle to career and their families. We focus on influencing public policies that can reduce disparities in child outcomes such as the academic achievement gap.

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